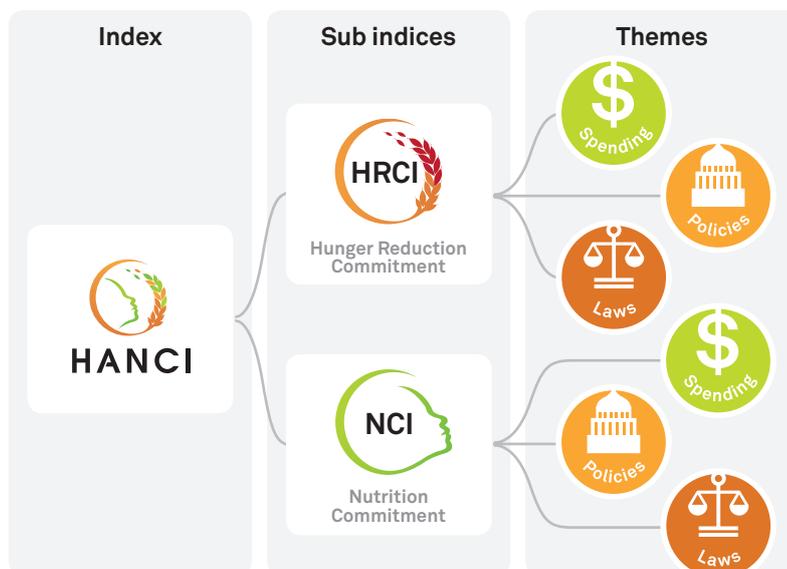


# Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI)

## Key data for Bangladesh



### The structure of the HANCI



Existing rates of: **Hunger** 17% of population **Stunting** 41% of children under 5 **Wasting** 16% of children under 5

Sources: WHO and measuredhs.com

**HANCI compares 45 developing countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. All the countries compared in the index have high rates of hunger and undernutrition. The comparative approach of the index means that country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.**

### Strong performance

- Government investment in the agricultural and health sectors is comparatively high within the region at 7.3% and 7.4% of total public spending respectively.
- The government promotes complementary feeding practices and 100% of children aged 6–59 months received 2 high doses of vitamin A supplements within the last year.
- Nearly 81% of the population of Bangladesh has access to improved water sources.
- A range of nutrition focused policies have been put in place in the last decade.
- The National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan set out time bound nutrition targets and has introduced an intersectoral coordinating body (National Nutrition Committee).
- Bangladesh has instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, improving public oversight and accountability for spending.
- Regular (once every three years) nutrition surveys enable policymakers to have access to up to date information.
- The constitution of Bangladesh contains elements resembling a right to food and a right to social security.
- The government has enshrined many, though not all provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.

### Areas for improvement

- Women's economic rights and agricultural property rights could be strengthened to reduce their vulnerability to hunger. Some of these rights exist on paper but are not effectively enforced. Various discriminatory practices continue to prevent women realising their legal rights to own farmland.
- Institutional, legal and market frameworks for accessing land have been put in place, however they do not always help poor rural households gain secure land tenure. Some efforts are made to improve poor farmers' participation in decisionmaking and agricultural extension systems for these farmers. However, effective coverage has not been achieved so far.
- At present Bangladesh has very limited social protection programmes.
- Only 53% of women aged 15-49 were attended once by skilled health workers during their pregnancy.
- Only 56% of the population has access to sanitation and 81% to improved water sources.
- There is substantial scope for improving the civil registration system; currently less than half of life births are covered. This potentially limits 90% of children from gaining access to basic services, including health and education, as this is dependent on proof of legal identity.

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### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

● Strong performance ● Areas for improvement

#### Public spending

	Score	HRCI Rank of 45
Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending	7.3%	17th
Public spending on health as share of total public spending	7.4%	33rd

#### Policies

Access to land (security of tenure)	Moderate	34th
Access to agricultural research and extension services	Moderate	24th
Coverage of civil registration system - live births (latest year)	10%	43rd
Status of welfare regime	Weak	24th

#### Laws

Level of constitutional protection of the right to food	High	1st
Women's access to agricultural land (property rights) <sup>1</sup>	0.5	Joint 6th
Women's economic rights	Weak	Joint 6th
Constitutions recognising the right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st

<sup>1</sup> Scores range from 0 (no or limited legal rights for women) to 1 (equal access)

### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

#### Public spending

	Score	NCI Rank of 45
Separate budget for nutrition	Yes	Joint 1st

#### Policies

Vitamin A supplements for children (6-59 months) in last year	100%	1st
Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
Population with access to an improved water source	81%	16th
Population with access to improved sanitation	56%	11th
Health care visits for pregnant women	53%	40th
Nutrition features in national development policies <sup>2</sup>	Strong	3rd
National nutrition policy, plan or strategy (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st

#### Laws

Efforts to enshrine the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in domestic law	Many aspects enshrined	Joint 19th
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<sup>2</sup> Score indicates mentions of key search terms in key docs / no. of pages